

Drug Court Works

After struggling with addiction since the age of 15, Candace Ozanic entered the St. Louis County Drug Court Program in 2004 at the age of 34, graduating 15 months later on September 30, 2005. It was not an easy journey. While in the Program, she worked full time and attended classes at Meramec Community College in addition to her daily obligations to Drug Court, and while also working to obtain legal custody of her 11 year old daughter.

With five years of sobriety behind her, Candace now works part time for a residential recovery facility. She has custody of her daughter, has purchased her first home and will graduate with a 3.5 GPA from the University of Missouri - St. Louis, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminology in May 2009. Candace states that she wants to be a Probation & Parole Officer because, "I want to work with Drug Court so that I can help others like me realize the importance of sobriety and the gift that Drug Court has to offer." Candace has been an inspiration to the team members of the St. Louis County Drug Court Program and others in the substance abuse treatment field.



(L to R) Glenda Gill - St. Louis Co. Drug Court Administrator, Candace Ozanic, Roxanne Jolly - U.S. Probation Officer and Kim Helwig - Probation & Parole Officer II.

Susan's Story

Susan, an ex-offender, recently came into the Belton Probation and Parole Office stating that she had seen an MRP article in the newspaper and wanted to donate some of her clothes. Susan had five large trash bags full of nice, clean business clothes for both men and women. She stated that she had become an accountant, but had a conviction and prison sentence years ago. When she saw the article, she decided to clean out her closets and donate her clothes as her way of repaying society.

Randy's Story

After an unsuccessful attempt at probation which began in July 2005 and several attempts at community treatment, Randy's supervision was revoked and he was ordered to complete a 120 Day Institutional Treatment Program. Upon his release, he entered the Drug Court Program in Cape Girardeau County and was referred to the MRP Life Skills/Workforce Development Group. Randy began making serious changes in his lifestyle and completed the Life Skills and Drug Court programs. He was successfully discharged from probation in April 2008. After completing the MRP program, he was hired as their VISTA volunteer and began helping to facilitate the same groups he had attended. As the VISTA worker he is responsible for three subcommittees: Employment, Life Skills and Mentoring, and works one-on-one with offenders to help them gain employment. Randy also works throughout the community helping gain awareness of the mission of MRP.

Bi-State Workforce Development Training

The Department of Corrections partnered with the National Institute of Corrections to present Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) training to increase the ability to assist offenders in making informed decisions relative to career development, job retention and career advancement.

In July 2008, the Missouri and Kansas Department of Corrections were the first in the nation to form a bi-state partnership to offer OWDS training. Held in the metropolitan Kansas City area, this training offered the opportunity for DOC staff from both states and Workforce Development to build more partnerships and collaborations, as well as combine resources and share ideas. This training endeavor proved to be very successful and demonstrates that by combining resources, we can accomplish goals we couldn't necessarily do on our own in these challenging economic times.



Success Through Collaboration

Missouri Board of Probation and Parole Annual Report 2008



Words From the Chair:

Steve Long



Through the collaborative efforts of the Missouri Department of Corrections and the seven other State partners working with the Missouri Re-Entry Process, our efforts to reduce recidivism and make safer communities continue to show success. Currently, there are 33 working MRP Steering Groups throughout the State. These groups work together closely to identify and

address offenders’ needs. Many projects are in place to aid an offender with a smoother transition back into the community. In the field, community partners help those on probation or parole supervision by offering support programs, educational opportunities, counseling and treatment, and other services to guide them in a positive direction. Working together allows our agency to utilize the strengths each partner offers to help toward building safer communities.

Department of Revenue

The Department of Revenue has been a key partner in the Missouri Re-Entry Process. In 2004, The Department of Revenue began working with the Missouri Department of Corrections with implementing a program to assist offenders in obtaining a non-driver’s license identification card, which will allow a smoother transition into the community. This will provide an offender the immediate possibility of proving their identity for important transitional steps such as employment, education and financial services. The Department of Corrections is currently in the process of installing Department of Revenue identification equipment in 20 institutions. This includes all institutions except Crossroads in Cameron, MO.

Offenders Supervised in FY 08:
108,787

Restitution Collected FY 08:
\$8,404,273

Department of Health and Senior Services

As part of the Missouri Re-Entry Process, the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) partners with the Department of Corrections to obtain birth certificates for inmates born in Missouri. A birth certificate is an essential step in the process of obtaining a state identification card.

DHSS also provides HIV Transitional Case Management through the Positive Start Program. Entry into this program occurs before the individual is released from the correctional facility. The program provides counseling support, encouragement and short-term assistance to HIV positive men and women who are returning to the community. Case managers work with clients to address primary health care and basic needs including housing, entitlements, medical care, counseling, drug treatment and other support. Case managers help the client establish short and long-term goals and link them with appropriate community support services that will help them meet their goals.

Community Service Performed FY 08:
295,775 hours

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is a service agency that works with educators, legislators, government agencies and citizens to maintain a strong public education system. DESE works closely with the Missouri Department of Corrections in providing educational and vocational classes in Missouri communities which benefit offenders as well. Both Departments recognize that educational deficits and illiteracy are among the primary factors contributing to continued criminogenic behavior. In many instances, GED classes are offered in probation and parole offices as a convenience to the clients.

Office of the State Courts Administrator

The Office of the State Courts Administrator supports the Missouri Re-Entry Process through the establishment of Drug Courts and Missouri Re-entry Courts. The Judiciary understands that individuals who are not provided a support system in the community are less likely to be successful. It is important to be part of the solution by offering assistance in obtaining employment, attending treatment programs, returning to their families, paying child support and maintaining a crime free lifestyle. Offenders who are successful will contribute to the public safety and avoid a return to the court system.

Department of Economic Development

Our partnership with the Department of Economic Development has been a very successful collaboration. Representatives from the Division of Workforce Development (DWD) come into many institutions on a monthly basis to make a presentation to offenders as part of their Employability Skills/Life Skills class, and make themselves available to answer questions regarding the services offered at Missouri’s Career Centers. Also, a representative from Parents Fair Share comes into many institutions each month to offer assistance to those offenders who owe back child support. DWD has afforded Department of Corrections employees training in and access to Great Hires, enabling DOC staff to enter offenders into their system. Many institutions have DWD kiosks on which offenders can enter themselves into the system and research jobs and training available in their area. Once an offender has an approved home plan, an appointment is set up for them at their local Career Center. DWD maintains a list in most areas of employers willing to hire ex-offenders, and continually recruits new employers by making them aware of the benefits available to them such as tax credits and federal bonding.

Missouri’s Declining Probation and Parole Annual Revocation Rate FY05 - FY08	Year	Percent
	FY05	23.76%
	FY06	21.84%
	FY07	21.00%
	FY08	20.52%

Missouri has Opened Seven
Community Supervision Centers

Department of Social Services

The Department of Corrections has partnered with the Department of Social Services to provide transition services to individuals who are currently incarcerated and are pending release from custody. The Department of Social Services serves on the Missouri Re-Entry Process Steering Team, which acts as the interdepartmental organization guiding this work. Some critical areas that are being addressed that impact transition are continuity of Missouri Healthnet services as well as information on critical services like food stamps, temporary assistance, and child support.

The Department of Social Services, through work with an initiative called Missouri Community Partnerships, is providing a network of individuals whose sole purpose is to establish and promote local teams that are focused on re-entry issues. This VISTA supported program has established relationships in eleven of the twenty-one partnerships around the state. Due to the overwhelming success, efforts are underway to expand this program.

MDOC has Six
Institutional Treatment Centers

Department of Mental Health

In 2008, the Missouri Department of Mental Health and the Missouri Department of Corrections collaborated to form the Community Mental Health Initiative. This was the result of successful mental health treatment pilot projects that were ongoing at field parole offices in St. Louis, Jackson, Buchanan and Cole Counties. This program was designed to provide more timely and effective mental health services to offenders with mental health problems. The program provides case management, psychiatric visits and medications at no cost to the offender. Each district office is paired with a provider in their community to offer these services.